

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes X  
no     

Property Name: Rice Auditorium, Spring Grove Inventory Number: BA-2336  
Address: Spring Grove Hospital City: Catonsville Zip Code:       
County: Baltimore County USGS Topographic Map: Baltimore West  
Owner: DHMH Is the property being evaluated a district?      yes  
Tax Parcel Number:      Tax Map Number:      Tax Account ID Number:       
Project:      Agency:       
Site visit by MHT staff:      no X yes Name: L. Bowlin, 1985 Date:       
Is the property is located within a historic district? X yes      no

*If the property is within a district* District Inventory Number: BA-2319  
NR-listed district      yes Eligible district X yes Name of District: Spring Grove Hospital Center  
Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource X yes      no Non-contributing but eligible in another context      yes

*If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)* Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible      yes      no

Criteria: X A      B X C      D Considerations:      A      B      C      D      E      F      G      None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:

#BA 157 (Bowlin, 1986); Project Review & Compliance Files; Spring Grove Architectural Survey Notebook

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

Spring Grove Hospital Center, Catonsville, Baltimore County was initially determined eligible for the Maryland Register of Historic Properties in 1986. Trust policy is that any property eligible for the MRHP is also eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Spring Grove is eligible under Criterion A, events, as the first state-sponsored facility for the mentally ill. The hospital had its origins in 1797 where the indigent sick and insane were cared for in Baltimore. By 1872 the hospital had outgrown its site and the state chose a new 200-acresite in Catonsville. The District is also eligible under Criterion C, as an architectural example. The hospital center does not have a specific layout, but rather its growth and development are demonstrated through the construction of buildings in response to new needs and developments in the care of the mentally ill. The 1985 survey included 25 buildings built between 1872 and 1944. All are eligible contributing resources to the historic district.

[\*from Spring Grove Hospital Center DOE]

As a result of the recently completed survey, 25 buildings have been determined to be historically and architecturally significant to the development of public mental health care in Maryland at Spring Grove Hospital Center. This property, BA-2336, Rice Auditorium, was included on the list of significant properties.  
(See Bowlin, 1985)

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended X Eligibility not recommended     

Criteria: X A      B X C      D Considerations:      A      B      C      D      E      F      G      None

MHT Comments

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, NR Program

Date

NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Rice Auditorium, Spring Grove

Page 2

BA-2336

Prepared by: L. Bowlin, 1985 (MHT)

Date Prepared: \_\_\_\_\_

BA-2336

1935

Thomas Rice Auditorium

Public

Spring Grove Hospital Center

Catonsville

Rice Auditorium is a one story, truncated hip roof, stone building. constructed in 1935. Designed by Henry P. Hopkins, Rice Auditorium provided the hospital with a modern building for entertainment purposes and an Occupational Department.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historic Sites Inventory Form

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Thomas Rice Auditorium

and/or common

### 2. Location Spring Grove Hospital Center

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication \_\_\_\_\_

city, town Catonsville \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district 3

state Maryland \_\_\_\_\_ county Baltimore

### 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Hospital

### 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

street & number 201 West Preston Street telephone no.: 301-225-6816

city, town Baltimore state and zip code Maryland 21201

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ folio

city, town Towson state Maryland

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state

## 7. Description

Survey No. BA-2336

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Thomas Rice Auditorium is a Georgian Revival style building constructed of irregularly laid rubblestone with a slate, truncated hip roof. Located just west of the Foster-Wade building, the auditorium is a tall one story building with a full basement level.

Rice Auditorium is composed of an entrance pavilion of three bays wide and one bay deep and a main block of seven bays long and five bays deep. The entrance pavilion faces south and the main block extends northward from it, providing the building with its solid, rectangular shape.

The entrance pavilion faces south and is embellished by three main doorways, each consisting of an elliptical arch pediment, supported by smooth stone pilasters. The pediments have a modillion and dentil course on the cornice while the capitals of the pilasters are adorned by stone flowers with radiating petals. Each opening has a set of double wooden doors that have a 2/3 glass transom. The doors themselves have an additional glass pane arrangement of four by three. A smooth stone water table is visible only from the eastern side of the entrance pavilion due to the cement steps. Smooth dressed quoins line the building's corners. Centered above the three arched pediments are three windows with rough stone sills, no lintels, and an interior mesh iron protective screen. The three windows have wooden surrounds and a 10/10 double-hung sash. Directly above these windows lies a full entablature constructed in wood. The cornice displays both a dentil course and modillion; a pattern that is repeated for the entire building. The cornice ends abruptly against a flat roof on entrance pavilion. Slightly set back from the cornice, a parapet rises from the flat roof and frames the roof space.

While the entrance pavilion is three bays wide and one bay long, the main block of the auditorium is much longer and somewhat wider at five bays wide and seven bays long. Sea green slate tiles cover the truncated hip roof. The same smooth dressed stone quoins visible on the southern facade are again utilized on the main block. The alternating quoins appear on the building's corners as well as vertical lines attached to the rubblestone walls, running perpendicular from the water table. The fenestration on the east and west facades consists of large, multipaned tripartite windows. The ground level windows have rough stone sills and a 36/45 sash. The doors are incorporated into the window information; the upper sash exists as is and then the door is built into the lower sash of the window. The configuration of door and window occurs on both the east and west facade. The first floor windows have rough stone sills and flat radiating voussoir lintels. These tripartite windows have a larger sash of 54/54.

A rubblestone stairway has been added to the east face of the auditorium. The color variation in the stone differs from the original but the stairway itself compliments the building's design. The staircase consists of two flights of steps shared by a common landing. The staircase runs up to the entrance on the first floor while creating a vestibule for a ground level door. Original drain pipes flank the building.

The west facade of the auditorium differs slightly from the east facade. The fenestration remains as described above. However, due to the slope of the land, the ground level on the west side is only accessible by descending a stairwell. The well runs the length of the building. The stairs which rise to the door on the first floor form a segmental arch over the well with keystones and voussoirs. In addition, the western doors

is constructed principally of wood where as the doors on the eastern facade are glazed rather than paneled.

The north facade is comparatively plain. The rubblestone walls retain the smooth stone alternating quoins, the slate roof is still decorated by a modillion and dentil cornice, the original drain pipes continue to line the wall. Adjacent to the eastern line of quoins, a large metal vent with a stone sill is visible. A single, wooden door is situated in the center of the northern face. A large cement-capped, rubblestone deck projects from the facade. The deck creates an additional half-story of interior space. On each of the north and east faces of the deck, a window with a rough stone sill and a 15/15 sash is visible. A plain metal railing encloses the entire deck.

# 8. Significance

Survey No.

BA-2336

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

<b>Specific dates</b>	1935	<b>Builder/Architect</b>	Henry Powell Hopkins
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check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or  
Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☒ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Constructed of cream-colored cut limestone, Rice Auditorium was built to expand the capacity of Spring Grove's entertainment facilities. The construction of the auditorium reflected the larger growth Spring Grove was experiencing. The Superintendent, Dr. Robert Garrett, doubled the average population during his administration of eight years. Garrett also believed in expanding the physical plant to meet the needs of the growing population. Believing that recreation and entertainment had strong therapeutic qualities, Dr. Garrett instigated the construction of a new auditorium.

The Auditorium served as a multi-functional building. The capacity of the auditorium accommodated 700 people—both patients and employees. While the auditorium was the main focus of the structure, the building provided space for additional functions. The Superintendent had established a training school for nurses and the new auditorium provided classroom space. Other areas included rooms for a patient's orchestra and band, occupational therapy and industrial training.

For a cost of \$92,000, Cogswell Construction built the auditorium designed by Henry Powell Hopkins. The quality of the stone and the pattern of its arrangement were purposely sought to match the work on Garrett Infirmary. The sea green slate, the gulf cypress woodwork and the creamed colored limestone all contributed to the construction of this Georgian Revival building. These elements still remain intact on the building. While the use of asbestos has closed the auditorium area of the building the basement level continues to be occupied.

Survey No. BA-2336

**Acreage of nominated property** \_\_\_\_\_

**Quadrangle name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Quadrangle scale** \_\_\_\_\_

**UTM References** do NOT complete UTM references

**A**

Zone	Easting	Northing
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100	100	100

**B**

Diagram B shows three separate coordinate axes. The first axis is labeled 'Zone' and has two tick marks. The second axis is labeled 'Easting' and has four tick marks. The third axis is labeled 'Northing' and has four tick marks. Each axis is represented by a horizontal line with vertical tick marks extending upwards.

**c**

**D**

**E** | 

**F** 

**G**

<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of compound 10 in CDCl<sub>3</sub>. The spectrum shows several peaks in the aromatic region (6.5-7.5 ppm) and aliphatic region (1.5-2.5 ppm).

### Verbal boundary description and justification

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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**11. Form Prepared By**

**name/title** Lauren L. Bowlin

<b>organization</b>	Office Of Planning	<b>date</b>	6/86
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street & number	201 West Preston Street	telephone	301-225-6816
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city or town Baltimore state Maryland 21201

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438





BA-2336

RICE AUDITORIUM

SPRING GROVE HOSPITAL CENTER

CATONSVILLE, MARYLAND

SOUTH WALL

DON JEWELL, 4/86

NEGATIVES AT MHT



BA-2336

RICE AUDITORIUM  
SPRING GROVE HOSPITAL CENTER  
CATONSVILLE, MARYLAND  
EAST WALL  
DON JEWELL, 4/86  
NEGATIVES AT MHT